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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Report of the Fifth Committee (Part II)

Rapporteur: Mr. Ihor V. HUMENNY (Ukraine)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The previous recommendations made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under item 116 appear in the report of the Committee contained in document A/51/750.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the item at its 48th to 51st and 55th meetings, on 10 to 12, 17 and 27 March 1997. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/51/SR.48-51 and 55).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Eighth progress report of the Secretary-General on the Integrated Management Information System project (A/C.5/51/23);

(b) Reports of the Secretary-General on review of travel and related entitlements for members of organs and subsidiary organs and staff members of the United Nations (A/C.5/47/61 and Corr.1, A/C.5/48/14 and A/C.5/48/83);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the lump-sum option for travel by air in lieu of provision by the Organization of travel tickets and related entitlements on home leave, education grant and family visit (A/C.5/50/50);

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(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the granting of travel assistance to least developed and other developing countries that are members of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (A/47/454);

(e) Notes by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Travel in the United Nations: issues of efficiency and cost savings" (A/50/692), his comments thereon (A/50/692/Add.1) and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (A/50/692/Add.2);

(f) Reports of the Secretary-General on standards of accommodation for air travel (A/C.5/51/18 and A/C.5/51/35);

(g) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/47/7/Add.5, A/49/952 and A/51/7/Add.4).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT DECISIONS

A. Eighth progress report on the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) project

4. At its 51st meeting, on 17 March, the Committee had before it a draft decision submitted by the Rapporteur, entitled "Eighth progress report on the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) project (A/C.5/51/L.44).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/51/L.44 without a vote (see para. 10, draft decision I).

6. Following the adoption of the draft decision, a statement in explanation of position was made by the representative of Italy.

B. Travel and related expenses

7. At its 55th meeting, on 27 March, the Committee had before it a draft decision submitted by the Rapporteur, entitled "Travel and related expenses" (A/C.5/51/L.55).

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/51/L.55 without a vote (see para. 10, draft decision II).

9. Following the adoption of the draft decision, a statement in explanation of position was made by the representative of Japan.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

10. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

DRAFT DECISION I

Eighth progress report on the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) project

The General Assembly, having considered the eighth progress report of the Secretary-General on the Integrated Management Information System[1] project and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

(a) Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;

(b) Endorses the recommendations and observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, with the exception of paragraph 12;

(c) Urges the harmonization of management systems within all organizations, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations insofar as such harmonization is cost-effective;

(d) Requests the Secretary-General, in the context of his proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999, to present the resource and staffing requirements of the Integrated Management Information System project, in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations;

(e) Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the information requested by the Advisory Committee is included in the ninth progress report on the Integrated Management Information System project to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

DRAFT DECISION II

Travel and related expenses

The General Assembly:

(a) Takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General on standards of travel and other entitlements,[3] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[4]

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[1] A/C.5/51/23.

[2] A/51/7/Add.4.

[3] A/C.5/47/61 and Corr.1, A/47/454, A/C.5/48/14, A/C.5/48/83, A/C.5/50/50, A/C.5/51/18 and A/C.5/51/35.

[4] Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/47/7 and Add.1-17), document A/47/7/Add.5 and A/49/952.

(b) Takes note also of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit,[1] as well as the comments of the Secretary-General and the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon;[2]

(c) Requests the International Civil Service Commission to review, at the earliest opportunity, taking into account the relevant reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Joint Inspection Unit, the question of travel entitlements of staff of the United Nations common system and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its resumed fifty-first session.

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[1] A/50/692.

[2] A/50/692/Add.1 and 2.